Application No. 09/653,261

pending patent Application No. 09/533,022, filed March 22, 2000; copending patent Application No. 09/697,777, filed October 26, 2000; copending patent Application No. 09/651,006, filed August 29, 2000; and copending patent Application No. 09/522,184, filed March 9, 2000.

REMARKS

Applicant is filing herewith a number of references cited in copending, commonly owned, U.S. Patent applications. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims currently pending in this case are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

Βv

Peter A. Nichols Reg. No. 47,822 626/795-9900

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